A moſt true report of the myraculous mouing and ſinking of a plot of ground, about nine Acres, at *VVeſtram* in *Kent*, which began the 18. of December, and ſo continued till the 29. of the ſame moneth. 1596.

The true figure of the foreſaid plot of ground, conteining nine Acres.

From A. to A. ſignifieth the carrying way at the North end, which is ſunke in one place 100. foote, and in an other place 65. foote.

From D. to C. ſignifieth two pittes of Alders, which are driuen vp to the toppe of a Hill 4. perches a peece.

From B. to B. ſignifieth the olde foote path, which is driuen from F. to E. 8. perches.

E. ſignifieth a hole ſuncke in the plain ground thirtie foote.

From H. to H. ſignifieth a ſtanding Hedge of 28. perches long, which is remoued 7. pearches out of his place.

The names of certaine of those which were eye witnesses for the testimoniall of the truth hereof, vnder their handes.

Richard Bostocke Esquire, Iustice of peace.
Iames Austen Gentleman.
Iohn Studley, Vicor of Westram.
Wil. Holton Phisitian.
Iohn Gainsford Gent.
Erasmus Gainsford Gen.
Gyles Gainsford Gen.
Iohn Dawling the elder, Gen.
Iohn Dawling the yonger, Gen.
Richard Reynold
William Reinold Gen.
William Holmeden Gen.
Iohn Larmoth Gen.
Thomas Chapman Gen.
William Cam Gen.
Robert Lighe yeoman.
Iohn Chapman of Cockam, yeoman.
Richard Welles yeoman.
Thomas Tollor yeoman.
Giles Browne yeoman.
Thomas Stacy yeoman.
Richard Stidowle yeoman.
Raphe Stacy yeoman.
Thom. Chapman of Holdfast, yeoman.
Iohn Constable yeoman.
Iohn Chapman of Shots, yeoman.
Iohn Stone yeoman.

To the right Honourable

my ſingular good Lady and Miſtreſſe, the Lady *Margaret*, Barroneſſe *Dacre* of the South, Iohn Chapman *your poore ſeruaunt, wiſheth much increaſe of honor in this world, and eternall ioy and felicitie in the world to come.*

RIght Honorable, my ſingular good Ladie and Miſtreſſe, whereas I find that ingratitude and forgetfulneſſe of due reuerence to be performed of ſeruants toward Maiſters & Miſtreſſes, is among all ſorts moſt odious; as contrariwiſe, diligence to pleaſe, and reuerent dutifulneſſe toward their ſayd Maiſters, &c. is in them a thing moſt laudable: as among many other, we reade of one *Mucronius*, ſeruant afore time to a poore Artiſan named *Hargabus*, who being afterward called to be a Senator, did ſtill for euer yeeld ſuch reuerēce vnto his ſaid old poore Maiſter, as thereby he did not onely giue cauſe of great ioy, to *Hargabus*, but it was eſteemed in him a great praiſe and increaſe of honour, to be ſo dutiful to him that had brought him vp. In regard whereof, I your Ladiſhips ſeruant, being deſirous to make knowne to the world the obedient dutie & ſeruiceable minde that I beare to your honor, haue thogh good (for want of better opportunitie, to preſent

your Ladiſhip with the education of the plotting and publiſhing of this miraculous worke of God, touching the ſtraunge mouing of certaine ground, at *VVeſtram* in *Kent*, whereof, I with diuers others, haue bin witneſſes. Humbly beſeeching your good Ladiſhip, to accept this as a poore new yeares gift, at the handes of him, who prayeth vnto God that your honourable Ladiſhip may enioy many happy new yeares: and is, and alway will be ready and diligent to pleaſe your Ladiſhip to the vttermoſt of his power.

Your Ladiſhips faithfull and obedient ſeruant.

Iohn Chapman.

An admonition to the Christian *Reader.*

AS it is most euident to them that are of the houshold of faith, that in the beginning our most gracious God did by his mightie power create and fashion the whole frames of the heauens aboue, and all things else on earth beneath: so also it is no lesse manifest, but ẏ by his wonderfull and vnsearchable prouidence hee doth from time to time, preserue and kepe, gouern & guide, alter and change, and euery way dispose thereof according to his owne good will and pleasure, and as it seemeth best to himselfe for the glory of his blessed name, and the good of his chosen children: deare to him in Christ Jesus, to whom therfore be praise & glory now and euermore, Amen. These things (I say) are most apparant vnto men: And yet notwithstanding the bright eye of his Almightie maiesty continually pearcing into our hearts, and sounding deeply the vnsene secrets of mens deceitfull thoughts, doth by his diuine wisedome see and perceiue, that many there bee who haue their continuall conuersation among his children, and do sometimes sucke the fatte of the earth more plentifully then they do, who yet lyke vnto brute beastes, destitute of reasonable soules, can goe no further in contemplation of spirituall matters then their bodily sences, common vnto beastes, which doe leade and direct them: And therefore these carnall men (as the Apostle tearmeth them) haue as he saith, no taste nor sence, of diuine matters, nor any perceiuing of those things that do appertaine vnto God: yea there bee some of them so farre from hauing any reuerent estimation and religious feeling of his gratious maiestie,

and especially from acknowledging of his fatherly goodnes and watchful prouidence, sustaining thē and theirs in their dayly necessitie of life and liuing, as that vnto themselues, and in their owne hearts they saye plainlye (and that the Lorde himselfe doth knowe) that there is no God at all.

This damnable impietie, although it do deserue, as a most blasphemous contempt of the sacred deitie, to be no waies tollerated, but to be most sharply censured, and rigorously punished, either with the fearefull fier that fell vpon *Sodom*, or the suddayne gaping of the ground that swalowed vp *Corah*, or the swarming lice & vermin which did fede vpon the flesh of that presumptuous *Herod*, and deuoured his loathsome carkesse aliue, yet such is the great patience and long suffering of the Lorde, as that hee doth vouchsafe to forbeare, to execute his sharpe iustice vpon the same for a time, and in the meane while (as one pittying this naturall blindnesse) doth most bountifully (as it were) put forth his glorious hand, and therein doth holde out such lampes of light as maye clearely shine vnto vs, and be (as the starre to the wisemen was at Christ his byrth) sufficient guides to leade vs out of this grosse darknesse of error and ignorance, and bring vs to finde him where he is, if we applye our selues as they did to followe the course and foting of ỹ same going before vs, euen here vppon the earth: For seeing we be thus hardly tyed vnto our outward sences, and so strongly pressed down with the heauy sway therof, as that we cannot passe higher then the reache of them: and so resting thereupon, become altogither vnapt to mount a loft, and ascend by fayth to discerne him sitting aboue in the height of the heauens, in his inuisible maiestie, he doth not yet leaue vs here, and forsake vs so: but to the intent our dead and benummed consciences might euen by these our naturall sences be sufficiently conuinced in this point, and further our humaine dulnesse (if it may be) stirred vp, to haue some more liuely feeling, forcible perceyuerance, and effectuall consideration of that

supreme

supreme essence, who is God all sufficient, vnto all, and in whom we liue, moue, and haue our beeing, he doth therfore vouchsafe, to discend in some sorte vnto vs, and offereth heere vpon earth, vnto our eies a sencible testimony of his most certaine beeing, and of his mightie power discernable by his straunge workes, daily done in our sight, farre aboue the common course of nature, and beyond the pollicie and strength of man: And to the intent we maye vnderstand so much of them, he doth in doing them, cal vnto vs by his prophet, willing vs to looke vpon them, and to cõsider them reuerently, while he saith, Come and behold the workes of God, for he is terrible in his dooings toward the sonnes of men: For if they were in deede well wayed as they ought to be, & duly considered one with an other: the order and course of them one way, and the varyetie and alteration of them an other way, is such, as may easily induce and perswade vs to know and beleeue, confesse and say, verily there is a God that ruleth the earth: And among sundry other his workes that may be of this force, he commendeth vnto vs in place where some especially, namely these (that as the prophet saith,) One while he turneth running riuers into a wildernesse, and the springs of waters into dry groũd, and conuerteth fruitful land into barrainnesse, for the sinnes of them that do dwell thereon. An other while he turneth the wildernesse into pooles of water: And a dry land into water springs. Whereto we may adde, that sometime hee hurleth downe hilles, and maketh them to become lowe vallies, and withall exalteth the lowe vallies, and maketh them to become high hilles: Which extraordinary effects when they come to passe, they are not to be altogither neglected, nor attributed, as the maner of some is to doe, vnto blind chaũce, casualtie, and fortune, or else to the only force of naturall causes measurable by philosophicall reason: but as it appeareth by the holy prophet, they are to be esteemed as matters of especiall marke, and worthie to bee regarded as heedefull documents, which haue their first originall and beginning of their motion, proceeding from the great fountaine of Gods diuine prouidence, not working

idely

idiely therein, but tending vnto some especial end and purpose: and chiefely this, that men beholding and seeing the same, should therupon take occasion as it appeareth by Dauid, with trembling and feare to thinke vpon that mightie maiestie, who is the first cause and causer thereof, and then to reuerence his holinesse, who reigning triumphantly in heauen aboue, doth yet by these his woorkes on earth, shew himselfe terrible vnto the sonnes of men, and thereby causeth them to remēber him perforce, that so one good thought in them, may as fier encreasing fier, beget an other, before all be quite quenched. This then (as it seemeth) being the purpose and counsaile of the holy Ghost, by such his woorkes to stirre vp in vs a more strong and fruitfull impression of the great deitie, we nēede not now trauaile farre to seeke out some presidents thereof, in straunge countries for the satisfying of our selues by the testimony of our owne eyes: for loe, the Lord doth now at this instant in some sort present the same vnto vs at home in our own native country, and that in diuerse places by common report, but especially in one place more aboundantly then els where, as may sufficiently appeare by this discourse insuing, faithfully sette downe by them who are very credible persons, and do testifie that which they themselues [illegible] know to be true.

A moſt ſtraunge and true report of certaine ground, containing nine acres and vpward, which was ſuncke, remoued, and carried out of his place, eight perches, vvith the trees ſtanding therevpon, at Cockam hill, in the pariſh of Weſtram in Kent, about fifteen miles diſtant from London.

IN the pariſh of *Weſtram* in *Kent*, about a myle from the Towne Southward, not far from the Eaſt ſide of a certaine great and common high way, called *Cockam* Hill, leading from London towardes *Buckhurſt*, & other partes of *Suſſex*, about that coaſt lyeth a certaine Farme poſſeſſed by one maiſter *Robert Heath*, an honeſt Gentleman, dwelling at *Sanderſted* in *Surry*, and preſently tenanted by one *Giles Browne* an honeſt yeoman. Among ſundry parcels of ground belonging thereto, in the midſt of that Farme are two cloſes lying togither, ſauing that they bee ſeparated with a ſtanding hedge, of Hollies, Aſhes, Hazels, Willowes and Alders growing theron: the ſcituation of which, and namely of the vpper cloſe, till the 18. day of December laſt paſt, was after this ſort. The vpper face of it lay ſomewhat aſlant, and vpon the ſhote of an hill, but not ſo much, but that a bowle being caſt vp againſt the hill might eaſily haue layen & ſetled without tumbling backe againe perforce: otherwiſe it was reaſonably leuell for the moſt part: for it hath bene vſually mowed, and within theſe fiue yeares hath bene ſowed three times with three ſundry kindes of graine: firſt with wheate, ſecondly with Barly, and thirdly with Oates: A little aboue the North ende thereof, lying ſomewhat higher then the reſt, harde

adioyning to the foote of a very high and steepe hil, there was a certaine carrying way for Carte and Waine, to the Tennaunts vse, and beneath that, towarde the middest of it, a foote path did crosse to the close: Betweene the sayd carrying way, and the sayd footepath, were two standing pittes, the one being about fiue foote deepe of water and moze, the other twelue foote at the least, and about foure perches ouer in bredth, hauing sundry tuffes of Alders and some Asshes growing in the bottomes of them: the ground on the south side of the sayd pittes, laye mounted higher then the vpper face of the water, about tenne foote.

Againe, from the great high hill lying at the vpper part of the grounde whereof wee spake before, two very little gozels palled downe along Southward through the close, theyr water Courses being diuided asunder at the vpper end, about the carrying way, twelue perches, and about the middest twentie eight perches: All which earth of the said closes within the sayd gozelles, and about an Acre moze in bredth one way, and eighty perches in length another way, beganne the sayd eightéene day of December to alter and chaunge fozme and fashion, and that very diuersly from day to day, foz the space of eleuen dayes together, after this maner.

First on the sayd 18. day, the sayd Tennant *Giles Browne* going in the mozning toward that Cart way, with purpose to passe along it, to a barne standing beyond it, when hee came to that part of it which laye about the head of the gozelles, he foũd it foz xij. pearches lõg to be sunk there down right fiue foote and a halfe deepe, by measure taken by himselfe and other. The next mozning being the nineteenth day, hee comming thither againe, found it to be sunke fifteene foote moze then it was the day befoze. The third mozning being the twentieth day, hee came againe, and then found it to be suncke about eightie foote moze at the least. And then from that day forwarde, that great trench of ground lying partly in these two closes, and partly in sũdry other, containing frõ the carying way southward in length (as is befoze said) about eightie perches, and in bredth in some

some place twentie eight and where it was narrowest xii. pearches, began with the hedges and trees thereon to lose it self wholy from the rest of the ground lying round about it, and withal to moue, slide, and shote southward, not with any suddaine shot, but creping by little, and little, so as the motion and stirring thereof was not discerned nor perceyued, by the that were presently standing vpon it and working about it, but only by the sundrie effects that followed, as the cracking of the rootes of trees, the brushing of boughes, the noise of the hedge-wood breaking, the gaping of the ground, and the riuing of the earth asunder, the falling of the torne furrowes and huge trenches after it, some foure foote deepe, some fiue and some seauen and more, whereby there were made in it at the least not so fewe as eleuen thousand furrows, riffes, cracks, and clefts in diuerse places here and there. This mouing and carying of the ground southward continewing still both by day and night for the space of eleuen dayes together, sliding a slant, sometimes as it was noted, foure teene handfulls by measure, in one houre and a halfe did wonderfully alter and chaunge the whole face of that land: for in some places thereof, the hinder ground comming faster forwarde (as it should appeare) then the former grounde did giue waye vnto it, caused it to swell vppe in rounde hillocks like vnto graues, the greene turfe remayning still whole and vnbroken aboue: In other places the hinder grounde came so violently, as that it did not only teare the greene turfe aboue, but also did rise and lift vp it selfe, and did rolle and tumble ouer the other as it were waues or surges and so stayed as standing buts, and at the last the whole plotte was so touzed, torne and rent, and withall the greene turfe so tattered and turned vp side downe, as that there is scant so much as one pearch together of al this ground left whole with the grasse vpon it vncrackt.

The ground of the two water pits euen from the very muddy bottoms whole, with a great rocke of stone vnder the same are not onlye removed out of theyr places

and carried forward toward the South, at the leaſt foure perches a peece, with their tuffes of Alders ſtill ſtanding vpon them, but withall, they are mounted vp aloft, and become hilles, ſtanding yet to be ſeene with their ſedge, flags, and blacke mudde vpon the toppe of them ſtill, higher then the vpper face of the water is now (which they haue forſaken) by at the leaſt nine foote: and into ỹ place from which they are remoued and ryſen, other ground which lay higher before, is deſcended and come downe, receiuing the water lying now vpon it, as it did before vpon the other.

Moreouer, in one place of the plaine fielde, there is a great Vole made by ſinking of the earth, to the depthe of thirtie foote at the leaſt, being in breadth in ſome place, two perches ouer, and in length, fiue or ſixe perches.

Likewiſe there is a hedge of 30. perches long, remoued and carryed Southward, with his treës and all, ſeuen perches at the leaſt: And of theſe treës ſome do ſtill ſtand, and grow vpright, and ſome are quite ouerthrowne, couered and buried, with the folding of the earth running vpon them, and almoſt both the endes of the ſayd hedge are ſunke and couered wholy with the earth: the Eaſt end of it foure perches long, the Weſt end fiue perches long.

Many other alterations there be of treës that be ſunke and remoued out of their places, ſome fiue perches, ſome ſixe: as namely, one Holly treé is driuen ſeuen perches out of his place, and yet it ſtandeth vpright ſtill, and a great Alder is torne foote and all out of the grounde, and carryed from his place foure perches, and there it lyeth, the top turned downe to the ground.

Beſide this, there was one peece of ground of halfe an Acre, which in times paſt did lye vp ſhooting in betweene the two fieldes: this peece now, with an hedge row of treës ſtanding vppon it, is ſlipped quite away Southward, from betweene theſe two cloſes: and they two before ſeuered, are now come togither & ioyned as one, and in their comming, are tumbled ouer a ſommer hedge, & withall two other hedges, and a ſhawe of hazell treës, and buſhes, which did ſeuer them, are now driuen togither on heapes at the Southend.

Sundry

Sundry other ſinkings there be in diuers places, one of fiftie fiue fote, an other of fourty ſeuen fote, an other of thirtie foure fote.

By meanes of all which confuſion, it is come to paſſe, that where the higheſt hilles were heretofore, there the deepeſt Dales bee now. And where the loweſt Dales were then, now the ground lyeth mounted higheſt.

The footepath ſpoken of before, is now carued out of ſquare eight pearches at the leaſt, the lower end of this ground is carued ſouthward in breadth three pearches ouer into two medowes, whereof one is in the poſſeſſion of an other man called *Thomas Toller*.

Finally the whole meaſure and content of this breaking grounde, was at leaſt nine acres ſeauen day workes and foure perches, on the twentie ninth day of December in the this figure and meaſure of it was taken, as here ye ſee it ſet downe: And ſince that time it cracketh and cleaueth daily more and more on all ſides round about it.

Among other things touching this matter, this alſo is eſpecially to bee conſidered, that whereas by the great aboundaunce of water, and continuall rayne which haue fallen ſo many monethes togither of late, ſundrye great bowrnes, and violent ſtreames haue broken out in many places of this land, and at the leaſt ſeauen ſuch within xii. miles of this place euery way, the leaſt whereof is able to driue a corne Mill, where ſeldome or neuer any ſuch haue bin before, and that this ground lyeth (as we haue ſaide) vnder a high hill that might occaſion ſome ſuch iſſue, yet there hath no extraordinary courſe of water broken out vppon it, nor neere vnto it by a mile any way, neither haue the ſmall ſprings thereof, during all this wet weather, bin any thing increaſed to ſpeake of. In ſo much as the two little gozelles mentioned before, being they that do cary moſt water ouer this rouing ground, are neither of them ſo great, but that their ſtreames might at any time all this yeare (and ſo many ſtill) eaſily paſſe through an auger hole of an Inch and halfe broade. Which I ſpeake to this end, that the ſtrange cariage, mouing, dryuing, and

displacing of huge masse of earth, and the heauing vp of the valleys and lowe pits, with the great rootes thereof rayſed and mounted vnto hilles, with the trees thereupon, cannot be imputed to the aboundance of water enforcing it as the cauſe therof, as ſome perhaps otherwiſe would imagin and ſuppoſe.

The whole maner of the ſtraunge confuſion of this plat cannot be diſcribed according as it is but there hath (by report of the Farmers and others) come to ſee it at ſundry times, from *London* and other partes of the country foure thouſand people ſince it firſt began: to whom it hath ſeemed to be a very ſtraunge and fearefull ſight, giuing occaſion vnto ſome of them, to thinke vpon that great opening of the earth that ſhalbe in the latter day when ſhe ſhall yelde vp her dead, that be in her to come to the reſurrection, to other to thinke vpon that fearefull gaping of the ground wherein *Corah* and his company were deuoured.

And to the intent the reader may not thinke himſelfe to be abuſed in this report by ſome vaine deuiſed fable, ſundry of the neighbors and inhabitants, and they of the beſt credit dwelling thereabout, who haue bin at it, and are eye witneſſes thereof, haue bin content hereunto to giue their teſtimony, by ſubſcribing their names at the beginning of this booke.

FINIS.